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“THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THOU DIDST SEND ME”

EASTER DAY—VINDICATION

“What is the world?” Civilization soggy with materialism, brutal with the efforts to get creature comforts, cheapening ideals, repressing moral earnestness, preferring pleasure to justice, laughing at those who serve.

But civilization is not the end of life. It never is as good as the prophets it despises and suppresses. Without the ideals it ridicules it is only a scramble for enjoyment of the economic surplus.

It is the prophet and the idealist to whom victory finally comes. Roman and Jewish civilization put Jesus to death, but it is He who lives today.

This is the paradox of Christianity—the vindication of defeated men whose faith has overcome the world.

The little band of frightened disciples has grown into millions of souls who call Jesus Lord. He who had no place to lay his head is worshiped in a multitude of churches. The Roman Empire that crucified him has disappeared except as its institutions and laws have been preserved by his followers. The Temple whose guardians he condemned has disappeared forever and the nation which killed him is now trying to prove that it produced him.

Tomorrow will repeat this vindication of Jesus and his trust in the Father.

Greed and animalism and force masquerading as civilization may triumph in Gethsemane, but sacrifice and love are bright with the sunlight of Easter.